Serial No.: 10/565,113
Filed: January 16, 2006

Remarks

The Examiner had mailed an Advisory Action on September 12, 2007 and the application was not placed in condition for allowance.

The applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define the invention. New claims 12 and 13 have been added. Support is on pages 10-12 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 now refers to a fine pattern forming material comprising a water-soluble resin, a water-soluble crosslinking agent, a solvent consisting of water or a mixed solvent of water and a water-soluble organic solvent, and an amine compound which is at least one selected from the group of a polyallylamine derivative and a quaternary amine compound, and that pH value of the fine pattern forming material exceeds 7.0, further where the amino group of the polyallylamine is partially protected at least by one selected from the group of an alkyloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group and an alkylcarbonyl group, and further where the quaternary amine compound is selected from a group of dimethylammonium salt, trimethylammonium salt, tetramethylammonium salt, dimethylethylbenzylammonium salt and N-methylpyridinium salt.

The quaternary amine compound, in claim 1, is selected from a group of dimethylammonium salt, trimethylammonium salt, tetramethylammonium salt, dimethylethylbenzylammonium salt and N-methylpyridinium salt. These salts contain only short chain alkyl moieties with less than 6 carbon atoms, that is dimethylammonium salt is an ammonium salt which has only alkyl substituents which are 2 methyls, trimethylammonium salt is an ammonium salt which has only alkyl substituents which are 3 methyls, and N-methylpyridinium salt has only methyl as the alkyl substituent.

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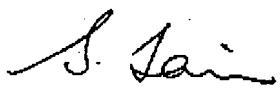
The prior art of Sugeta (US 2006/0258809) discloses a quaternary amine salt surfactant which has at least one substituent which is an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group having not less than 6 carbon atoms. Since the present claim 1 does not have a substituent which is an alkyl group having greater than 6 carbon atoms, the present invention is both novel and unobvious.

In view of the above remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration of it is requested. If the Examiner disagrees, she is requested to contact the agent for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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